



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The multi-agency effort Operation Downpour ends on high note

CHINLE, Ariz – As of this 10 am, Operation Downpour has officially ended with a report of no casualties from all agencies involved. Officials also confirm that there has been no structural damage. Roads are currently being assessed and some roads that have been washed out are being repaired.

“We are standing down Operation Downpour with positive reports and we would like to thank all the agencies and volunteers involved,” said Incident Commander Harlan Cleveland.

Officials still advise the public to be cognizant of weather conditions and to be on the look out for flash flooding or washed out roads.

BIA Roads reported that BIA road 8066, 1.5 miles north of Black Mesa Community School, is impassible due to erosion and debris.

A report from Chinle Unified School District said the buses will not be running on unpaved routes until further notice. Notices of operational bus routes will be sent home with the students.

As of yesterday at noon the National Park Service has reopened the campground at the mouth of Canyon De Chelly and overnight campers have returned. Although the National Park Service has not opened the canyon to the public until a pending assessment, all Canyon residents and evacuees have been permitted to return to their homes.

Officials would like to clarify unofficial reports and rumored incidents of the breaking of Tsaille or Wheatfields dams. Tsaille and Wheatfields Dams are officially reported as still intact and stable. The earth dam that broke was located 1.5 miles northwest of Wheatfields Chapter.

Officials at incident command would also like the public to know that they have deemed this specific incident and the Chinle area's locally related events as Operation

Downpour. The primary focus of Operation Downpour has been the safety of nearby residents, the breakage of the earth dam and the water levels from the monsoonal rains.

Vehicle operators and pedestrians are urged not to cross any flooded roads or pathways. Officials ask that the public keep in touch with family members and to remind one another to avoid floodwaters.

Contact information:

Chinle Police Department (928) 674-2111
(928) 674-2112
(928) 674-2115

Thank you to:

Apache County District One,
Apache County Sheriff's Office,
Chinle Police District, Chinle Unified School District,
Navajo Nation Fire – Chinle Fire Department,
Chinle Emergency Medical Service,
Community Health Representatives,
National Park Service, Navajo Nation Safety of Dams,
Bureau of Indian Affairs, American Red Cross,
Indian Health Service, N.T.U.A.,
Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President,
Navajo Nation Fleet Management,
Chinle Agency Chapters,
And all the Volunteers

Personnel:

First Operational period Incident Commander: Harlan Cleveland

Second Operational period Incident Commander:

Sergeant Dean Hadley

Operations Section Chief: Sergeant Alfreda Wagner

Planning Section Chief: Sergeant Emmet Yazzie

Finance/ Logistics: Vernelle Shirley

Liaison: Ernest Yazzie

Press Information Officer: Chandler Willie

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